THE SHAKERITE

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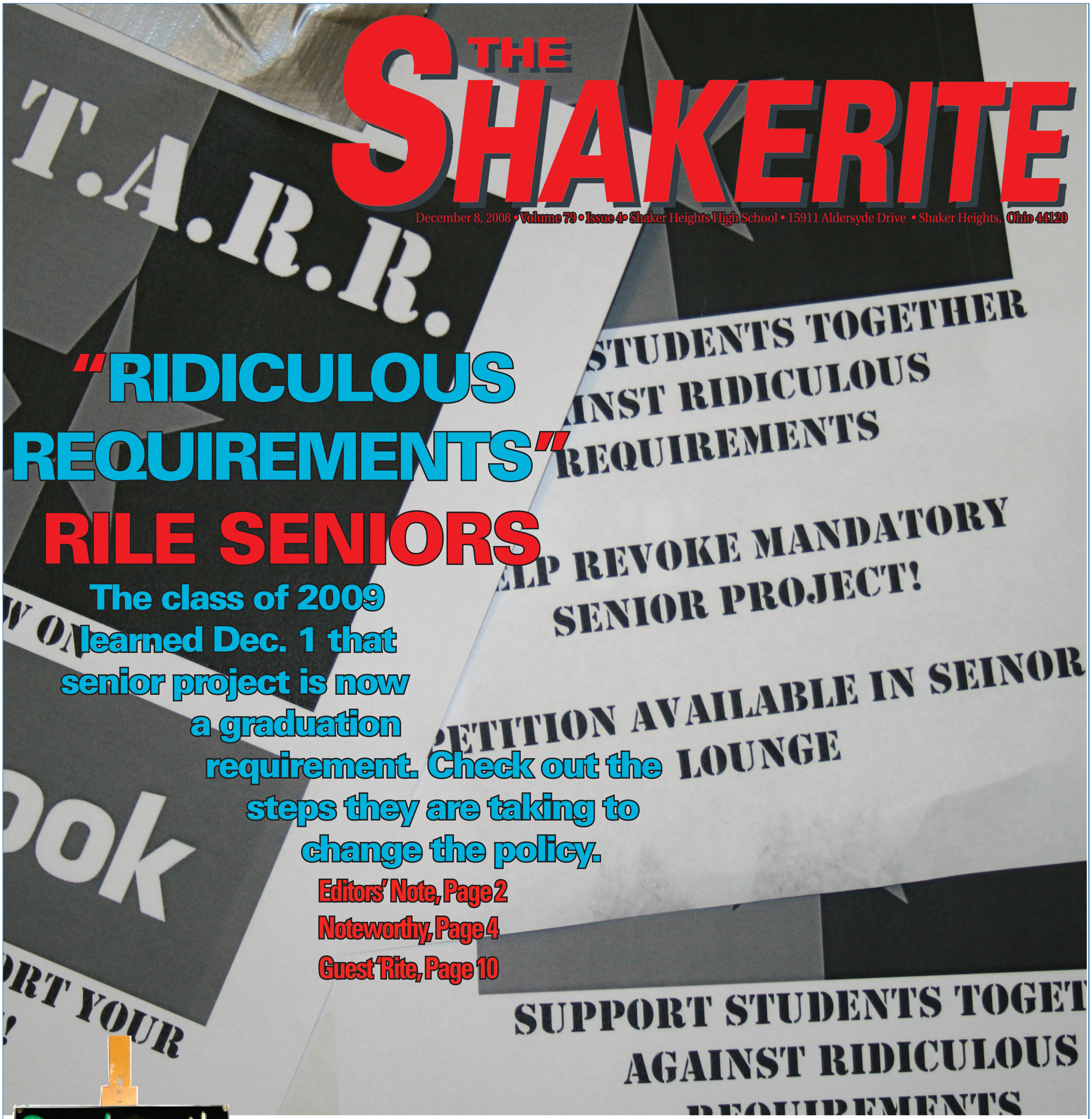
T.A.R.R.
STUDENTS TOGETHER
INST RIDICULOUS
REQUIREMENTS
ELP REVOKE MANDATORY
SENIOR PROJECT!
PETITION AVAILABLE IN SEINOR
LOUNGE
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SUPPORT STUDENTS TOGET
AGAINST RIDICULOUS
REQUIREMENTS

"RIDICULOUS REQUIREMENTS" RILE SENIORS

The class of 2009 learned Dec. 1 that senior project is now a graduation requirement. Check out the steps they are taking to change the policy.

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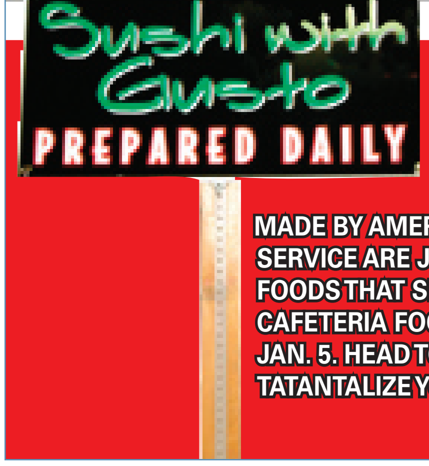
Sushi with Gusto
PREPARED DAILY

FROM SQUISHY TO SUSHI

POPCORN , BURGERS, SALADS AND WRAPS MADE BY AMERICA'S #1 SCHOOL FOOD SERVICE ARE JUST SOME OF THE NEW FOODS THAT SHAKER'S NEW CAFETERIA FOOD WILL FEATURE COME JAN. 5. HEAD TO NOTEWORTHY TO TATANTALIZE YOUR TASTEBUDS.

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IT'S A THUNDEROUS THURSDAY IN RAIDER NATION

HEAD TO SHAKER SPEAKS TO SEE WHY STUDENTS THINK ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL ERIC HUTCHINSON, MOTIVATOR OF THE BIG HOUSE, IS SUCH AN ASSET TO SHAKER.

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CRAZY FOR CUPCAKES

S'MORES! COOKIE MONSTER! MEXICAN HOT CHOCOLATE! PUMPKIN SPICE! THE BEAT EDITORS SAMPLE THE AREA'S BEST OFFERINGS OF NEWLY POPULAR PALM-PERFECT CREATIONS.

PAGES 6 AND 7

What's Inside

12.08.08

COVER SHOT

"Students Together Against Ridiculous Requirements" posters graced hallways one day after the announcement of the modified senior project expectations. Flyers were also posted in the senior lounge, alongside a petition protesting the new setup. S.T.A.R.R. was created by senior Dylan Hogan-Drexler, who gathered more than 200 signatures in two days. Photo by Diana Jack.

THE SHAKERITE
"RIDICULOUS REQUIREMENTS" RILE SENIORS
STUDENTS TOGETHER AGAINST RIDICULOUS REQUIREMENTS
HELP REVOKE MANDATORY SENIOR PROJECT!
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SUPPORT STUDENTS TOGETHER AGAINST RIDICULOUS REQUIREMENTS

EDITORS' NOTE

Project changes don't pass test

The seniors are fighting mad.

Thirteen and a half quarters into high school, we were informed of a new graduation requirement: senior project. Although some of us were planning to go on project anyway, we fail to understand why students who are barely scraping by in their classes are being forced to overcome yet another burden before June 11.

DIANA JACK

The new senior project involves four levels of student involvement. The first tier is for well-organized, independent students, followed by a tier of students who need a little guidance, after which there is tier three, for failing students to go to class for half of a day and pursue a project assigned to them in the afternoon. Tier four is essentially the "punishment" tier, reserved for students removed from project for misconduct or absence. These students will work on mediocre projects within the high school.

ALEXA SYKES

Ostensibly, the objective of the renovation is to give seniors real world experience before leaving the comfortable walls of high school, but it becomes obsolete when you force students into busy work. Additionally, changing graduation requirements that have been in place for years mid-senior year is simply unacceptable. While the senior project advisers were being chosen and getting organized, we were left in the dark, only to be told in a 20-minute assembly that we must have our project proposals in two weeks. If not, welcome to tier four.

Worse yet, many students won't have time to raise their grades or pass the OGT, and teachers are now forced to raise the pace in order to finish three weeks earlier than they had planned. We find it ironic that struggling students are required to complete a project in a tier that represents their grades, while their grades inevitably suffer because they have to focus on their project. "It's unfair because there are people who don't want to go on senior project, they just want to focus on their schoolwork. It categorizes people," senior Jeremy Boone said.

He was seconded by senior Antonio Bryant.

"It's unethical. For people that don't do work, it's more work to put on themselves and they can't graduate." And to be honest, whatever busy work tier four entails won't prepare any student for the "real world." Rather, it will create animosity between the frustrated student and the impatient administrator, and work will fail to get done, resulting in a second senior year. We propose the school restore senior project as an option for willing students.

Those who reluctantly go on project won't reap any benefits anyway, especially if they end up in tier four.

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Red Hot Billy Preppers salvage soccer season
FINAL FOUR
• Women's soccer surpasses expectations, captures regional title
ROAD TO THE FINAL FOUR
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President-Elect Barack Obama's Nov. 4 win signifies a new chapter in American history for all: black, white, young and old. Go to Noteworthy to see what Shaker students and teachers have to say about it.

With a record number of cast and stage crew members in this year's fall production "Ragtime," check out how the big numbers affected the making of the show in Limelight.

For the first time in Shaker women's soccer history, the Raiders made it to state semifinals. Beating Mentor 6-0 for the first time and losing to Strongsville only after a strong overtime fight, the girls made Shaker proud. Check out how the rest of their season went in Raiderzone.

THE SHAKERITE

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DECEMBER

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3 Read about the Preppers in Raiderzone, p. 12!	4	5	6 SAT 7:45 a.m. to 1 p.m.
7	8 Red Hot Billy Preppers game @ Metroplex 8:30 p.m. Early Dismissal	9	10	11 Girls Basketball vs. Shaw @ Home 7:30 p.m.	12 Hockey vs. Strongsville @ Home 9 p.m.	13 ACT 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.
14 Matisyahu @ the House of Blues 7 p.m.	15	16 Boys Basketball vs. John Adams @ Home 7:30 p.m.	17 Wu Tang Clan @ the House of Blues 8 p.m.	18	19 Swimming vs. Maple Heights @ Home 6 p.m.	20
21	22 Shwayze @ the Agora Theatre & Ballroom 7:30 p.m. First Night of Hannukah	23 Final Red Hot Billy Preppers game @ Metroplex 8:30 p.m.	24	25 Christmas Day	26 Kwanzaa	27
28	29	30	31 Rusted Root @ the House of Blues 8 p.m.			

heard in the halls

"Y'all move like molasses. If there's a fire we all 'bout to die."

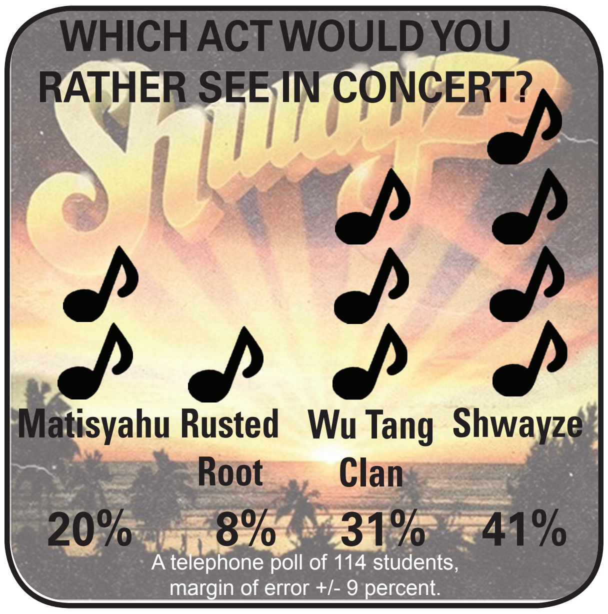
Teacher: "Ok... I need to get your minds off sex."

"What if the gunman was in here?"
"Well, then I would put up the red paper."

HAVE AN ENJOYABLE WINTER BREAK!

Compiled by Abby Schiller

WHICH ACT WOULD YOU RATHER SEE IN CONCERT?



A telephone poll of 114 students, margin of error +/- 9 percent.

POINT GUARD SIZES UP MEN'S BASKETBALL SEASON

Wells

Abby: What position do you play?
Anthony: I play point guard.

Abby: When is your first game?
Anthony: Friday Dec. 5 at Toledo St. Johns.

Abby: Do you like when students watch?
Anthony: Yes! The more student support, the better the atmosphere.

Abby: What games are the best to watch this year?
Anthony: All of them, but especially Euclid because it's always a competitive game and the crowd gets rowdy, and Cleveland Heights because it's a neighborhood rivalry and if we win we get bragging rights.

Abby: What are your best moves on the court?
Anthony: I make a lot of three pointers and I'm quick off the dribble.

Abby: Who's your favorite person to play with?
Anthony: Markeese Lavette because we always find each other and connect on the court.

BEAT THE ACT WITH THESE TEST-TAKING TIPS:

1. Get at least eight hours of sleep the night before the test.
2. Eat breakfast; it's going to be awhile.
3. Read ALL directions before starting each section.
4. Read every possible answer before selecting one.
5. Answer the easy questions first and go back to the ones that gave you trouble.
6. If you finish early, check your answers.

NOW THAT YOU'VE TAKEN THE TEST, HERE'S HOW TO SEND YOUR SCORES:

1. Go to www.actstudent.org and login.
2. Click "Send your scores."
3. Select the test date for which you want to send scores.
4. Look up the code for each college you want to receive your scores.
5. Enter the codes and credit card information.

You're done!

Compiled from www.actstudent.org

Note Worthy

11.28.08

INAUGURATION WILL NOT ALTER FINALS

Despite a rumor travelling the school, the administration will not amend the semester finals schedule to accommodate the Jan. 20 inauguration of President Elect Barack Obama. According to Principal Michael Griffith this is, "because we didn't move it for Bush's [inauguration] or the presidents before him. We didn't feel we should single out a specific inauguration as having greater or lesser value than any other." Although the English and math finals will occur as scheduled, students who attend Obama's inauguration in Washington D.C. will still be able to complete their finals. Griffith said, "We have conflicts, we have make ups."

NATALIE VICCHIO AND VICTORIA FYDRYCH

BRIEFS

SHAKER JANITOR ACQUITTED, RETURNS TO WORK

- Shaker custodian Joan Gayle reclaimed her job after being fired last month for committing a felony 24 years ago. A new state law requiring background checks for all nonteaching employees who do not have contact with students revealed Gayle's charge of aggravated assault in 1984 in which no one was seriously injured and no jail time occurred. Gayle sued the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Identification and Investigation to recover her job and lost pay. The judge ruled that law could not apply to crimes committed before the law was passed and that Gayle could regain her custodial job. A pre-trial was scheduled for Dec. 9 to determine the payment Gayle should receive for her forced absence from work. The background checks also discovered eight employees with misdemeanor records. Those employees must show they have been rehabilitated in order to preserve their jobs.

STAGGERING ECONOMY HITS SHAKER SCHOOLS

- Harsh economic times will interrupt the district's three-year cycle for placing school levies on the ballot. Hoping to skip a year, the Board of Education will not put an issue to vote on the May 2009 ballot. According to Treasurer Bryan Christman, because of the state of the national, local and regional economy, it is, "not a good time to be on the ballot." The 9.9 mill levy would have raised $6-7 million per year. Recently, the district received a $1.7 million tax settlement from Office Max, which moved its headquarters from Shaker to Illinois in 2006. The district continues to curb energy costs by turning school thermostats down and installing GPS systems in buses to make routes more efficient. "We continue to try and seek savings where possible," Christman said.

Compiled by Natalie Vicchio

GRADUATION AGITATION

• Dec. 1 revelation that all seniors must participate in senior project in order to graduate spurs protest

BY VICTORIA FYDRYCH
NOTEWORTHY EDITOR

Seniors were in an uproar after the Dec. 1 class meeting during which they found out senior project is now mandatory for graduation. Given two weeks notice before their project ideas were due, distressed seniors expressed concern and frustration regarding the timing of the news.

Senior Jessyca Watson is feeling the pressure to pick a topic by Dec. 15. "If they wanted to change it, they should've told us at the end of last year or the beginning of this year," she said.

Bradd

Two days after the meeting, senior Dylan Hogan-Drexler created a group to protest the new policy. The group, Students Together Against Ridiculous Requirements, circulated a petition against the new system. In one day, more than 160 students signed the petition, which states, "We the undersigned believe that senior project as a mandatory graduation requirement is a ridiculous over-stepping of the administration's power that violates the student's right to choice and should be immediately revoked." After two days, about 200 students had signed on."The administration is taking away our right of choice," Hogan-Drexler told a senior Advanced Placement Composition class Dec. 3, attempting to rally more support.

Schmidt

However, this year's new senior project advisers, James Schmidt, Andrea Bradd and Katherine Fleming, consider the revised, four-tiered project an improvement on the existing structure, which last year yielded the lowest participation since the 1970s. "We're trying to provide these students with a senior project experience. We want it to benefit you," said Schmidt, science teacher and director of senior project. "It's not terribly, terribly new – it'll just be more structured." The new system is intended to extend the privilege of senior project to all seniors, not just those who met the stringent requirements set for the program in previous years.

"It is a great opportunity and should be available to all seniors," art teacher Fleming said. Senior Carolyn Reis is pleased with the new format because it "gives kids that didn't have [the] grades the ability to go," she said, referencing the minimum 2.5 GPA requirement of the previous senior project.

Fleming

The advisers believe everyone should have an equal opportunity to pursue a senior project, even if they lack an idea or specific task they wish to accomplish. In the past, every senior who participated had to arrange his or her own project.

"We didn't think it was fair because some students who wanted to do it couldn't come up with an idea," said German teacher Bradd, adding many students don't have the necessary contacts to arrange a successful senior project. However, not all students will be permitted to choose or design their projects. Senior project is divided into four tiers, each with different responsibilities and requirements. In the first tier, students who meet the traditional academic, attendance and discipline requirements design a project or find an internship – essentially like senior project in the past. The second tier has the same requirements as the first, but advisers provide students with internships and contacts if they cannot find their own sponsors.

The third tier is a half-day program designed for students with Ds and Fs. They will spend mornings in school taking classes they are failing or struggling in, and afternoons working in the community on projects the advisers assign.

According to Bradd, the fourth tier is essentially reserved for "anybody who is not doing what they're supposed to do." Students who are inefficiently completing their work while on project or are not following senior project rules are placed in this level, along with those who have severe disciplinary problems and unexcused absences. Those who do not abide by the requirements in the other three tiers are automatically demoted to tier four.

Tier four participants will attend classes and do work around the school building. Bradd commented that tier four assignments are "remedial, not fun, tasks." Griffith and other administrators are arranging these specific jobs, but have yet to decide what they are.

Schmidt said tier four students will work at the high school because advisers don't want to burden the community with unproductive students. "We're not going to send you out [into the community] . . . we feel you need more supervision and we don't want to put that on an outside entity," he said.

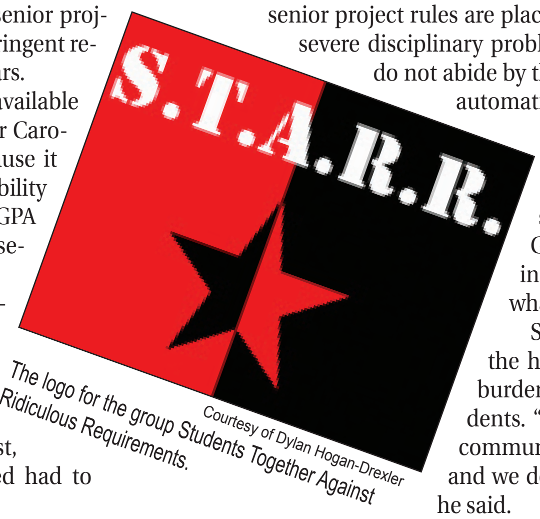
The three advisers replaced Walter Slovikovski, Joel Rathbone and Amanda Rabatin, who resigned in protest as project advisers last spring after students who were arrested for streaking while intoxicated on school grounds and dismissed from project were reinstated by Superintendent Mark Freeman.

Asked whether exceptions would be made for students who don't fit into any of the tiers, Schmidt said, "This is Shaker. You can quote me on that."

S.T.A.R.R.
SUPPORT STUDENTS TOGETHER AGAINST RIDICULOUS REQUIREMENTS
HELP REVOKE MANDATORY SENIOR PROJECT!
PETITION AVAILABLE IN SENIOR LOUNGE
S.T.A.R.R.
IS NOW ON
facebook
JOIN THE GROUP! SUPPORT YOUR RIGHT TO CHOICE!

Alexa Sykes • The Shakerite

IN THE SENIOR lounge, Jeff Reese watches Lindsay McCord sign the petition against mandatory project Dec. 4.



Courtesy of Dylan Hogan-Drexler

The logo for the group Students Together Against Ridiculous Requirements.

THE FOUR TIERS

I

Tier 1: For students who meet grade, attendance and behavior requirements. Seniors must design a project or arrange an internship with a sponsor. This gives participants the most responsibility and freedom.

II

Tier 2: For students who cannot find a sponsor. This level has the same requirements as the first but the school finds students internships or jobs.

III

Tier 3: For students who have Ds and Fs in any classes. Students will spend the first half of the day in class and the second half at an assigned project.

IV

Tier 4: For students with disciplinary problems. Seniors in all tiers can be relegated to this level if the advisers find students are neglecting senior project.

Compiled by Victoria Fydrych

ON THE MENU: NEW TASTES FOR CAFETERIA CUSTOMERS

BY EMMA BRESNAHAN
STAFF REPORTER

Say goodbye to ghastly green beans and chips swimming in processed yellow cheese product.

Beginning Jan. 5, AVI Fresh, the fourth-largest food service company in the country, will serve "people-pleasing menus" to hungry Shaker students. Gone are the days of high-sodium snacks and processed entrees filling Styrofoam trays. AVI will provide a sushi bar, fresh popcorn station and a "hot shop," which will offer coffee and hot breakfasts. Every day the cafeteria will offer two salads and gourmet pizza, as well as the main entrée. Lynn Mansfeld, regional operation director for AVI, said the company seeks student input to develop its menus.

"We listen to students to see what sells and what doesn't," Mansfeld said at the open AVI tasting Dec. 2.

The serving spaces in the cafeteria will now be divided into three different areas: hot shop, which will be open by 7 a.m.; Grab 'n' Go; and the lunch line.

Located in Warren, Ohio, AVI is the largest family-ownedfood service company in the country. The company has served more than 50 universities and high schools. AVI said its primary goal is to provide students a healthier, more enjoyable school lunch options.

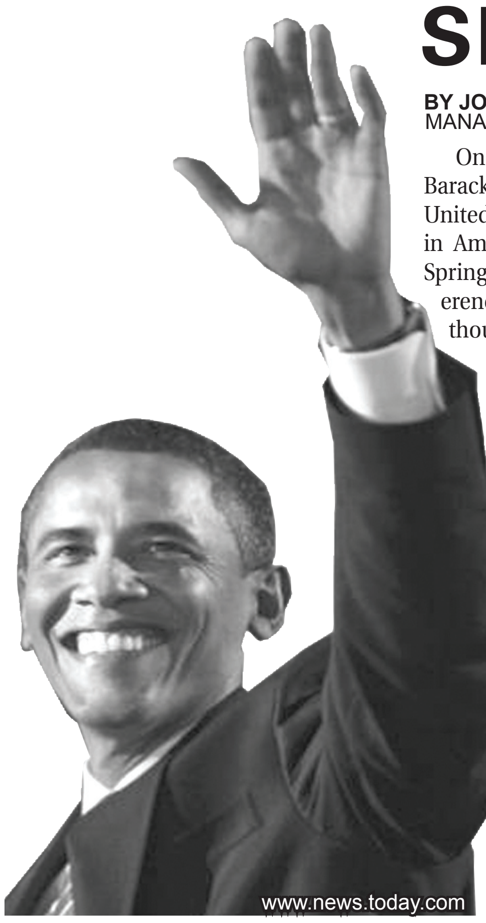
Victoria Fydrych • The Shakerite
AVI CHEF SERVES fresh fruit smoothies to a Shaker parent at the tasting Dec. 2.

AVI also caters for neighboring schools such as Beachwood High School and Gilmour Academy. Beachwood has had a large increase in students buying food since they started using AVI. The school reports it has received positive feedback from students. Senior Eric Bokar, who attended the Dec. 2 tasting, believes the new cafeteria food is "probably one of the best thing that's ever happened to Shaker."

Sushi with Gusto
PREPARED DAILY
Victoria Fydrych • The Shakerite
HAND-MADE SUSHI will be provided in the cafeteria on a daily basis.

Principal Michael Griffith and the school board said this will be a significant change for Shaker students, but students won't be the only ones affected. Mansfeld described the process of re-training the current cafeteria staff, along with adding professional chefs who will prepare the food earlier in the day. AVI has suggested having the cooks roll the sushi out in the cafeteria, along with a monthly culture day featuring Mexican, Chinese and other cultural choices. Health and cultural development are only two of the goals of the new cafeteria food. Robert Keiner, retired superintendent, said the district wants the students to stay on campus, and spend their money at school rather than nearby restaurants. Mansfeld acknowledged that AVI's biggest challenge is attracting students and competing with other food options.

Shaker cheers victory


www.news.today.com

BY JOSH CURRY
MANAGING EDITOR

On Tuesday, Nov. 4 America elected Barack Obama the 44th president of the United States, breaking the last racial barrier in American politics. English teacher Paul Springstubb described the election as a referendum on race relations in America. "I thought it would at least be another generation before we would see a black president," he said.

In his victory speech, Obama recognized the historical significance of the election, saying, "If there is anyone out there who still doubts that America is a place where all things are possible, who still wonders if the dream of our founders is alive in our time, who still questions the power of our democracy, tonight is your answer."

Shaker Heights prides itself for being a community at the forefront of diversity. Efforts toward integration in Shaker began in the late 1950s with neighbors in the Ludlow Elementary School area, working together to make it successful. Attempts to rid Shaker of racial stereotyping and discrimination continue today with the organizations like the Student Group on Race Relations and Minority Achievement Scholars.

A member of both SGORR and MAC Sister Scholars, senior Ayanna Smith said that the election of Obama will cause people to "finally see what Shaker believes in in action." SGORR adviser Marcia Jaffe believes Obama's victory will change attitudes within the high school. "It is wonderful to have an optimistic, can-do president," Jaffe said. "He's a joy . . . I've never seen someone react to situations like we want students to – so thoughtfully, so respectfully."

Sprinstubb was optimistic about what the election might mean for students across America. "My hope is that the success of Barack Obama will help a generation of black students to go for anything that society offers," he said. "The door is now flung open for success at the highest imaginable position in society."

Senior Barry Phillips, a black male, agrees. "I think having a black president will cause African American young men to pursue higher careers."

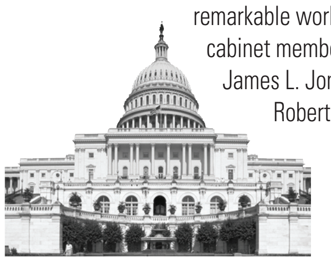
"I think we are all so fortunate to be living at this time," Jaffe said.

NEWS IN THE NATION

SHOPPERS TRAMPLE WAL-MART EMPLOYEE TO DEATH

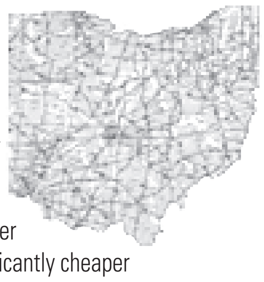
- After being trampled by more than 200 people, Jdimytai Damour, 34, was pronounced dead by 6 a.m. Nov. 29. Damour, an employee at Wal-Mart, attempted to hold the glass doors of the store closed while a crowd of 2,000 people pushed inside. Among other stores across the country, Wal-Mart participated in the close-out sales only found in the early morning of Black Friday. After being pushed to the linoleum floor and stampeded, Damour was sent to Franklin Medical Hospital in Valley Stream, NY, but Damour was fatally injured and the doctors could do nothing. Along with Damour, eight other people were hurt by the charging crowds, including an eight-months pregnant woman. None was severely injured.

HILLARY CLINTON APPOINTED SECRETARY OF STATE



- Hillary Clinton will give up her seat as a senator from New York to join future President Barack Obama's national security team as secretary of state. The cabinet will play a key role in advising Obama on foreign and national security issues. Obama specifically chose Clinton because of her independent-mind and strong opinions. Obama said that Clinton, "possesses an extraordinary intelligence and toughness, and a remarkable work ethic." He announced most of his cabinet members Dec. 1, including Marine Gen. James L. Jones as national security adviser, Robert Gates, who will remain as defense secretary, Eric Holder as attorney general and Arizona Gov. Janet Naploitano as homeland security chief.

OHIO GM PLANT TO CLOSE EVEN WITH BAILOUT



- A General Motors plant located in Moraine, Ohio will be closing Dec. 23, causing the shut down of the Jamestown Industries' Moraine Plant 2 near Dayton. Nearly 5,000 people were once employed by the GM Moraine Assembly plant. The sister factory, which has already been closed, once employed 200. In order to avoid bankruptcy, GM, as well as Ford and Chrysler, are lobbying Congress for a $25 billion bailout. However, even if the bailout is granted, the Moraine plant is still closing, along with five other plants. No severance pay or compensation is being given to the fired workers and the jobs are being sent over seas to India, where workers are paid significantly cheaper salaries.

HUDSON FAMILY MURDERER ARRESTED

- William Balfour, estranged brother-in-law, was arrested Dec. 1 for the murders of three relatives of actress Jennifer Hudson. Hudson's mother, 57-year old Darnell Donerson, and 29-year old brother Jason Hudson, were found dead in their Chicago home Oct. 24. Three days later, the body of Julian King, Jennifer's 7-year old nephew, was found in the trunk of an SUV in a vacant lot. Balfour was originally detained for questioning on the day the first two murders were discovered. He is the ex-husband of Julia Hudson, Jennifer's sister, as well as stepfather to King. Balfour served seven years of prison time for attempted murder, possession of a stolen vehicle, and vehicular hijacking, according to the Illinois Department of Corrections; however, Balfour was on parole at the time of the murders.

Compiled by Natalie Vicchio and Victoria Fydrych

CUPCAKE CRAZE

Pint-sized pastries please tastebuds

BY COLIN JACKSON
THE BEAT EDITOR

In a quiet neighborhood on Professor Avenue on Cleveland's west side, the owners of A Cookie and a Cupcake practice their philosophy of baked goods as culinary art. Wendy Thompson and Syndee Klingenberg both graduate of the Pennsylvania Culinary Institute of Arts, have contributed 12 elaborate custom varieties to the ever-growing cupcake phenomenon, including everything from a simple yet intriguing vanilla cupcake with buttercream frosting topped with a crunchy vanilla wafer to the mouth-watering red velvet cupcake shouldering a generous portion of cream cheese frosting. All 12 flavors indulge a different part of the palate making A Cookie and a Cupcake an all-around favorite for dessert lovers. Their deep German chocolate cupcake is guaranteed to satisfy the chocoholic, and their strawberry cupcake, jam-packed with fresh strawberries and rich custard, is sure to please the fruit-loving consumer. A Cookie and a Cupcake's signature cupcake, nicknamed the Cookie Monster, is guaranteed to put a smile on your face to rival the blue frosting cookie monster that leers at you with his Oreo cookie mouth and gumdrop eyeballs. This bakery's creations raise the bar in culinary creativity, making for an adventure in every pint-sized pastry.

Beachwood bakery brings smiles

BY ADRIA KINNEY
THE BEAT EDITOR

Located at La Place in Beachwood, the White Flower Cake Shoppe is a delightful bakery whose aroma itself should be enough to attract any shopper with a serious sweet tooth. The bakery, voted Best Cake Decorators by Cleveland Magazine in 2007, specializes in beautifully decorated wedding cakes but also sells gourmet cupcakes. I sampled four; the traditional white, cookies and creme, pumpkin spice and red velvet. The pumpkin spice cupcake was absolutely delicious, and was topped with rich cream cheese frosting and caramel drizzle. The red velvet cupcake was visually appealing with a deep red color and red shavings on top, had a great smooth texture and also featured the excellent cream cheese frosting. The cookies and crème cupcake was slightly less exciting; the chocolate base was rather plain, but the frosting was very light and fluffy. Similarly, the traditional white cupcake was tasty but boring. Co-owner Marianne Carroll explained that the more basic flavors are actually the best sellers. ”I think its because cake is a comfort food for most people, and theyre afraid that if they go out of their comfort zone and dont like it, they wont be able to enjoy their cake, Carroll said.

KELSEY'S CUPCAKES

Cake
¾ cup milk
¾ cup oil
4 eggs1 package white cake mix
1 package strawberry gelatin
1 cup finely chopped fresh strawberries with juice

Preheat oven to 350°. Combine all ingredients in a large mixing bowl and mix well. Bake for 20 to 25 minutes, until few crumbs adhere to toothpick inserted in center of cupcake. Cool in pan for 10 minutes and remove.

Frosting
1 package cream cheese, at room temperature
4 tablespoons butter, at room temperature
3 to 3 ½ cups confectioner's sugar
½ cup mashed strawberry, thawed from frozen

Beat cream cheese and butter. Add strawberry. Slowly add sugar until frosting reaches desired consistency. Frost cupcakes.

Adapted From
"Cupcakes! From the Cake Mix Doctor"

One taste creates a devoted fan

BY TAYLOR SMITH
THE BEAT EDITOR

Cupcake lovers in Hudson have their hands full, and with a little effort, you can, too.

Main Street Cupcakes, located 25 minutes away from Shaker on Hudson's quaint Main Street, specializes in more than 120 flavors of cupcakes and sells 12-20 of them daily, according to their website, www.mainstreetcupcakes.com.

Since February 2007, owners Kimberly Martin and Sean Nock have been sharing their love of cupcakes with the lucky people of Hudson, who have responded so eagerly to the portable treats that the store often displays a sold-out sign in its window by day's end.With a starting price of only $1.95, these cupcakes are simply irresistible. Walking into the store, you are greeted by a giant display case overflowing with cupcakes of vibrant pinks, alluring yellows and delicious smells. The most difficult part of your trip is trying to decide which flavor you want to enjoy. You will find yourself standing in front of the display case, contemplating whether you are in the mood for the Mexican hot chocolate flavored cupcake, versus the white mocha mint, but will probably end up buying a whole bunch, just as I did. And you won't mind that the employees are eagerly willing to serve you. Having a weakness for any combination of peanut butter and chocolate and a craving for Starbuck's Classic Coffee Cake, I decided on a chocolate peanut butter and a coffee crumb cake cupcake. Thinking I was saving the best for last, I tried the coffee crumb cake cupcake first. From the moment I tasted the confection, its flavor was much better than Starbuck's pastry. The crumbles on top, made of brown sugar and cinnamon, complemented the moist, subtle flavor of the coffee cake. Next up, the chocolate peanut butter cupcake that I had been anticipating. Unaware that there were peanut butter chips mixed into the batter, I was surprised to discover them and delighted that they made this cupcake even more scrumptious. But I still haven't mentioned the delectable mountain of peanut butter cream frosting atop the dark chocolate cake; I admit it – I ate it all, and it was worth the 1,000 calories and the mere $3.90.

From the moment I stepped into Main Street Cupcakes, I had a feeling I would love their treats. In the end, it did not matter which cupcake I ate first or what flavor I decided to buy; all I knew was that I wanted more.

Cupcake connoisseur spills all

BY KELSEY DEFOREST
SHAKER SPEAKS EDITOR

French toast, strawberry ice cream cone, apple spice, dark chocolate raspberry truffle, Saudi Arabian orange honey cake, strawberry lime.

Last year I started making gourmet cupcakes as a New Year's resolution to improve my baking. I decided to bake them once a week.

I actually stuck to my pledge for a few months, but had to stop in the summer because of how much time my job took up. I was driven to my resolution from the inspiration I found on cupcake blogs, such as Chockylit's Cupcake Bakeshop and The Cupcake Project. Since I began, I have been creating recipes and learning new decorating techniques.

The best part about starting to make cupcakes is discovering the cupcake community. Simply by joining a few websites, I found people who could give me advice from all over the world. A batch collapsed after they came out of the oven—someone from New Zealand suggested cutting the amount of butter .

I continue to create cupcakes because of the community. I love having the opportunity to share recipes, designs and meet others interested in baking.

Cupcakes create connections through the Internet and by sharing them. Though I sell them either through individual orders or through subcontracts with a caterer I work for, I mostly give the cakes away. People get so excited about cupcakes!

Best of all, they are the perfect size for one person, easy to share. It's amazing how a simple sweet can make someone's day that much better. Cupcakes are simple. They are one of the pure, simple joys in the world.

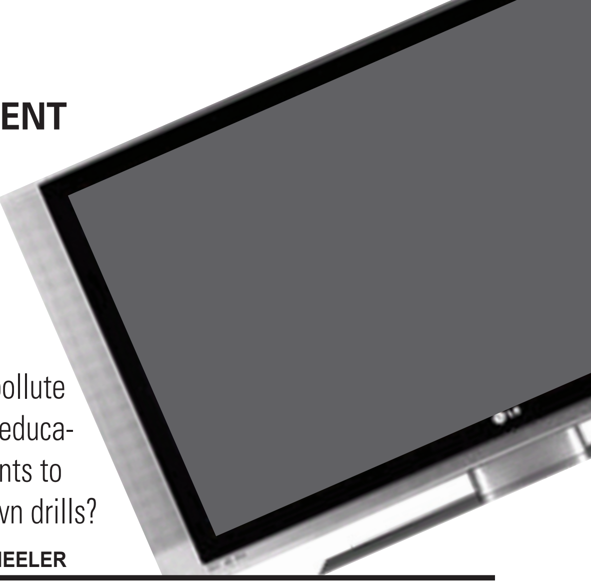
In the last few years, cupcakes have been steadily reclaiming their place in our lives. Once appropriate only for fifth grade birthday parties, cupcakes have seized the cultural spotlight. The portable treats are appearing in bakeries everywhere—even in Cleveland.

Why not join the cupcake community? You can find one of my beginner recipes on the next page. Clip it out and try passing the fun along.

> The best part about starting to make cupcakes is discovering the cupcake community.

PARLOR PERFECT
cookie sprinkles

A COOKIE MONSTER cupcake from the bakery A Cookie and a Cupcake peers at you with gumdrop eyes. Located on the west side of Cleveland, this bakery sells both wedding cakes and gourmet cupcakes.



EDUCATION TAKES BACKSEAT TO ENTERTAINMENT

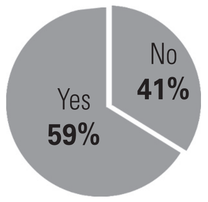
When did it become the job of the district to entertain students? The improvements to the senior lounge only serve to encourage complacency. It is not difficult to imagine seniors sitting in the lounge six periods a day. Seniors playing video games on the big screen TV with the school's consent does not help. The majority of seniors may use the lounge responsibly, but the same people who pollute the lounge with crumbs and wrappers are likely to find refuge from education in . . . school. Most importantly, why would Shaker allow students to play Halo 3 or Gears of War 2 when they recently instituted lockdown drills?

EVAN WHEELER

SENIOR LOUNGE by the #'s

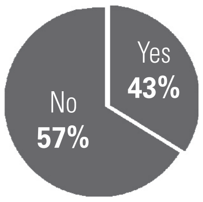
87% of students said they believe that seniors skip class in the senior lounge.

Do you think there should be video game consoles in the senior lounge?



94% of students think that the senior lounge should continue to be improved.

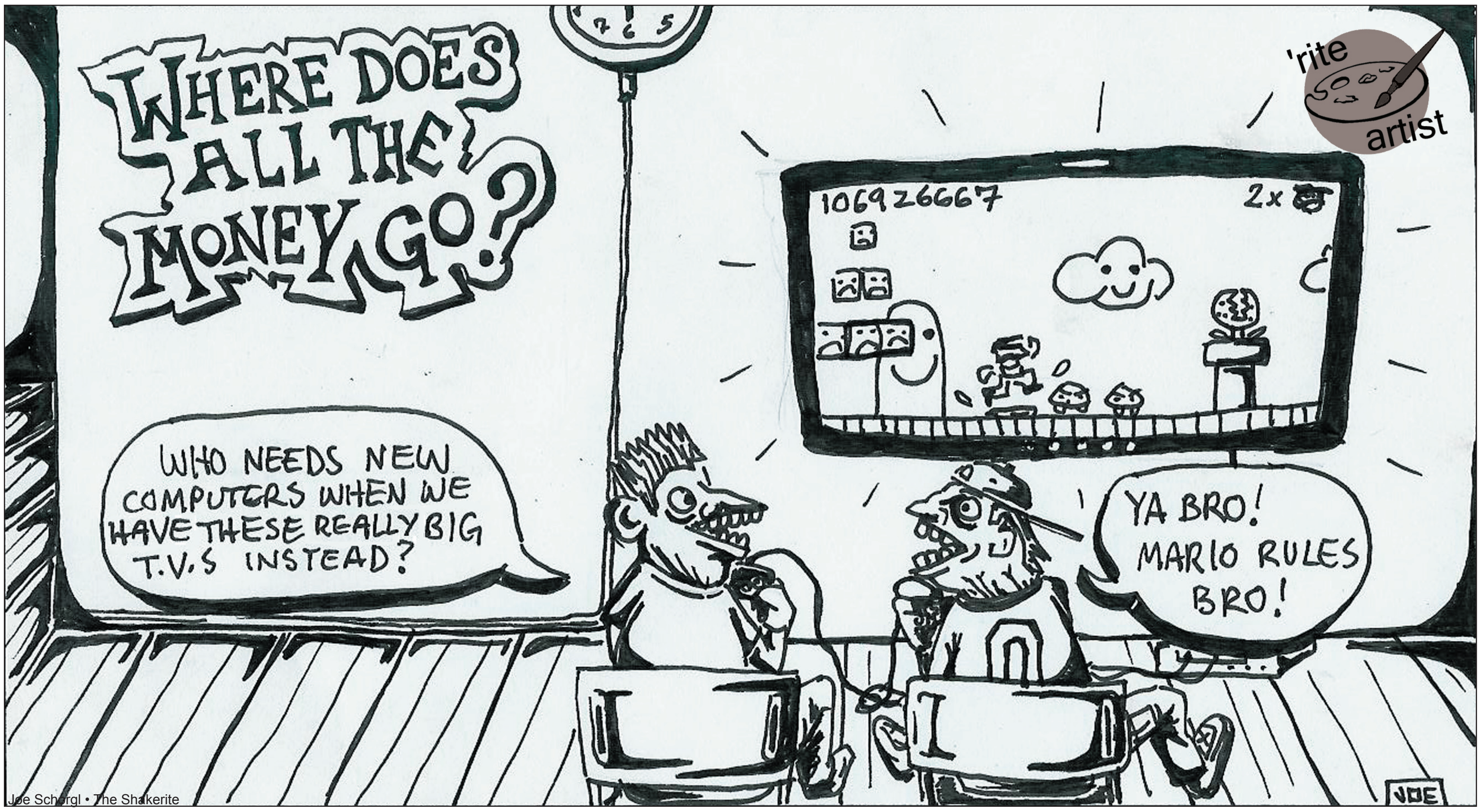
Do you think that the new entertainment will distract people from learning?



88% of students support the senior lounge TV having cable and also support the addition of computers to the senior lounge.

Scientific poll of 114 students conducted by The Shakerite staff margin of error +/- 8.6%

Infographic by Kelsey DeForest


WHERE DOES ALL THE MONEY GO?
WHO NEEDS NEW COMPUTERS WHEN WE HAVE THESE REALLY BIG T.V.S INSTEAD?
YA BRO! MARIO RULES BRO!
106926667
2x
JOE
'rite artist

Joe Schorgl • The Shakerite

PROJECT PROMPTS PROTEST

• Although tier system is laudable, Dec. 1 too late to announce mandatory participation

guest 'rite

The announcement that senior project is now a mandatory graduation requirement way overstepped the administration's boundaries. The imposition of such a requirement midway through the year shows not only an extreme lack of tact, but a completely unrealistic view of what our students are capable of and the delicate situation Shaker is currently in. It would have been one thing to announce this at the end of last year or even the beginning of this one, but how can they just drop this on us halfway through the year? "Oh yeah, by the way, If you don't do this, you don't get to graduate!" Whether they choose to believe it or not, Shaker Heights is still a public school, and its primary function is still to see that as many of its students graduate as possible.

The reason I've been so opposed to this recent decision is because it will cause students that are already struggling to graduate much unnecessary strife, leading to a large number of them not graduating. Being a second-year senior, I know what it's like to not graduate. It sucks. It's hard not only on the student, but on their family and those closest to them. I wouldn't wish it on anyone.

So I started STARR (Students Together Against Ridiculous Requirements) and a petition to revoke the decision. At first I didn't expect that anything would come of it, but I was happily surprised by the overwhelming response. In only two days approximately 200 signatures were collected from the senior class.

However, it is not just the students that are upset about this. Every teacher that I've talked to about it agreed that it was unfair to make such a thing mandatory and were upset because the administration yet again failed to even run this by the faculty before making the announcement. This fundamental lack of communication is disturbing at best for a district such as Shaker. Last year showed the lowest turnout of student participation in the senior project program; that certainly does not say to me, "Let's make this a requirement."

Dylan Hogan-Drexler

Having said all of that, I must now give credit where credit is due. Senior project is undoubtedly a great opportunity for students to gain a better insight on the outside world and a great way to get a more "hands-on" experience in exploring one's future career options. The way it was previously set up was very selective and exclusive. Many people who wanted to go on project were barred from it because of their grades or other extenuating circumstances.

The introduction of a tier system is actually a very good idea, and I'm sure it would have increased participation in the program a lot. However, as a mandatory requirement, it becomes little more than another label for the over-achievers to be pompous about and the under-achievers to feel inadequate over. The other flaw in the tier system is the assigning of a project in the lower tiers. A world experience is not something that can be forced, especially not by a public school. If a student has no interest in such things then it's their loss.

What I suggest is that senior project be dropped as a mandatory requirement, and the tier system be revised to make it more appealing and increase participation. One idea that came out of a discussion with my peers was that of holding an open forum so that the administration, the students, and the teachers could voice their opinions on the matter. This could be done in the form of another senior meeting, this time with an open mic, and an easily accessible suggestion box for those who cannot attend the meeting. I would like to thank everyone for their support, and I hope to see some progress on the matter in the coming weeks.

HUTCH INSPIRES PRIDE, EXCELLENCE

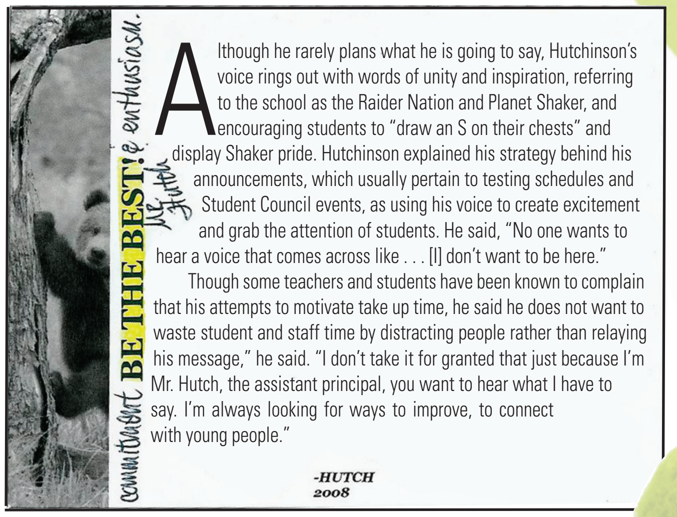
ERIC HUTCHINSON, THE MAN BEHIND THE MICROPHONE: For a man who graces the stages of class assemblies as a disciplinarian and mentor and walks the halls as one of the most identifiable and admired administrators, Assistant Principal Eric Hutchinson remembers his classroom roots as an English teacher. He keeps the books he taught as a middle school English teacher on a shelf in his office and speaks about his years as a teacher with a nostalgia that reflects the impact that time had on his administrative style. Hutchinson, now in his eighth year as an AP, is beginning to reach out into the larger community. He spoke to parents at Cuyahoga Community College Nov. 1 about the importance of staying involved in their kids' educations. He will continue these engagements, speaking later in November at an education and administration convention in Columbus. His ultimate goal is to make students better than he is. He said, "At the end of the day, you have to respect . . . the people you're here to serve. I'm here to serve young people." The respect he has for the student body has made him a standout among the administrators and given power to his words of motivation.

Kelsey DeForest • The Shakerite

THE BIG HOUSE: Originating when Hutchinson taught eighth grade college prep and advanced English at the middle school from 1995-2001, he has continued using "the big house" synonymously with the high school since he began working here. "I used to call the high school the big house because I wanted my students to know this was the big time," he said. Hutchinson elaborated that he tried to teach life skills along with English—preparing students for the next step at the high school, where grades and transcripts take on greater importance.

BE THE BEST: These words have become a part of Shaker culture, but the phrase became part Hutchinson's motivational language in Atlanta, where he taught from 1993-1995. He said, "It's become a way of life. It is my educational and personal mantra." He explained that the phrase is "designed to make you self-reflect" and decide what your goals are. Hutchinson frequently uses the phrase to close assemblies and emails and has developed a call and response consisting of "Be the…" "Best." He has also formed the "Be the Best" family of which he calls himself the father and adopts members of the school community.

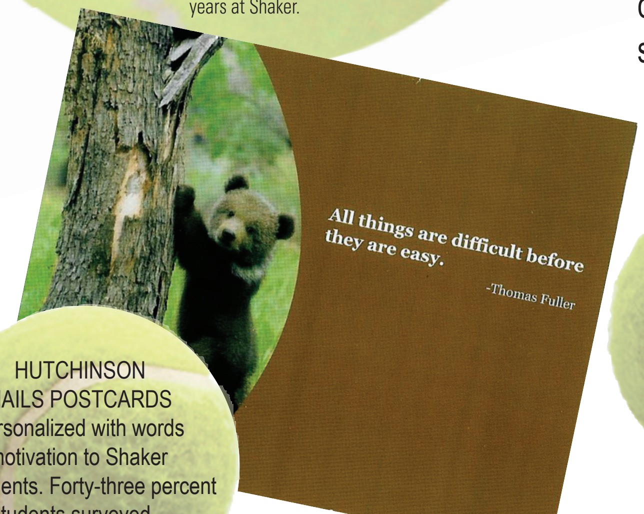
YOUNG PEOPLE: Hutchinson is not one to refer to high school students as children, teenagers or any other belittling titles. " 'Young people,' number one, sounds flattering. It sounds complimentary. It sounds like I respect you," he said. He believes it conveys his envy for the potential of high school students during their four years at Shaker.


commitment BE THE BEST! & enthusiasm.
Mr. Hutch

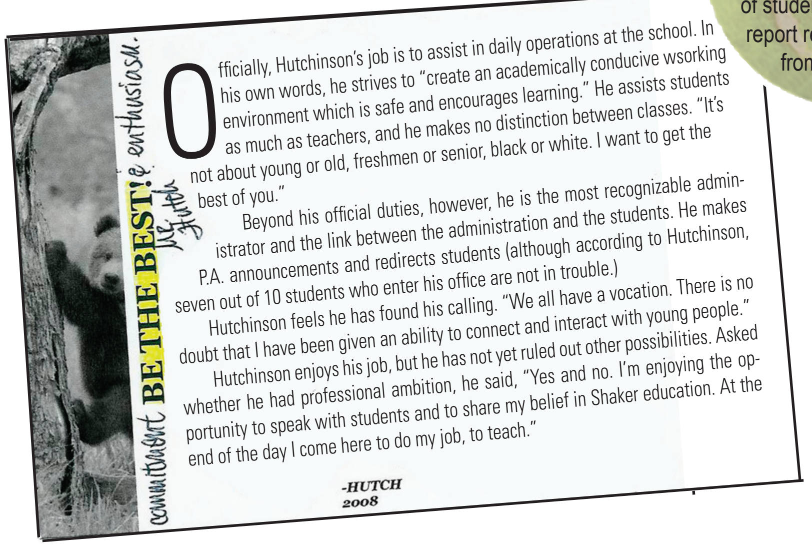
Although he rarely plans what he is going to say, Hutchinson's voice rings out with words of unity and inspiration, referring to the school as the Raider Nation and Planet Shaker, and encouraging students to "draw an S on their chests" and display Shaker pride. Hutchinson explained his strategy behind his announcements, which usually pertain to testing schedules and Student Council events, as using his voice to create excitement and grab the attention of students. He said, "No one wants to hear a voice that comes across like . . . [I] don't want to be here."

Though some teachers and students have been known to complain that his attempts to motivate take up time, he said he does not want to waste student and staff time by distracting people rather than relaying his message," he said. "I don't take it for granted that just because I'm Mr. Hutch, the assistant principal, you want to hear what I have to say. I'm always looking for ways to improve, to connect with young people."

-HUTCH
2008


All things are difficult before they are easy.
-Thomas Fuller

HUTCHINSON MAILS POSTCARDS personalized with words of motivation to Shaker students. Forty-three percent of students surveyed report receiving a card from Hutch.


commitment BE THE BEST! & enthusiasm.
Mr. Hutch

Officially, Hutchinson's job is to assist in daily operations at the school. In his own words, he strives to "create an academically conducive wsorking environment which is safe and encourages learning." He assists students as much as teachers, and he makes no distinction between classes. "It's not about young or old, freshmen or senior, black or white. I want to get the best of you."

Beyond his official duties, however, he is the most recognizable administrator and the link between the administration and the students. He makes P.A. announcements and redirects students (although according to Hutchinson, seven out of 10 students who enter his office are not in trouble.)

Hutchinson feels he has found his calling. "We all have a vocation. There is no doubt that I have been given an ability to connect and interact with young people."

Hutchinson enjoys his job, but he has not yet ruled out other possibilities. Asked whether he had professional ambition, he said, "Yes and no. I'm enjoying the opportunity to speak with students and to share my belief in Shaker education. At the end of the day I come here to do my job, to teach."

-HUTCH
2008

Hutchinson believes Shaker High is an excellent school that he believes is diverse and successful. However, he also believes there is room for Shaker to improve. "We can be good, but we can be better." When asked to clarify, he said, "I'd like Shaker to continue to become more tolerant, respectful of others. I'd also like to see young people and adults to interact in a more positive manner,"

Hutch wants students to do their part. "Hold on to the values and quality standards that make Shaker one of the most respected school districts in the state," he said. But he is less concerned with the school's prestige as he is with the students that it produces.

"At the end of the day, I just want to see you shine."

Duane Horton
Junior

"When I came to the school, I didn't know many people. I heard that he was a cool guy and always carried a tennis ball."

Paige Dingess
Senior

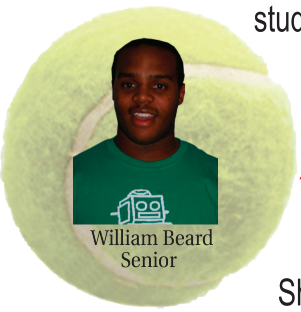
"I went into his office crying and he made it all better. My sister and I thought that he was trustwrothy and understanding and that's why I went to him in the first place. I didn't really know him very well, but the way that we saw him interacting with other students prompted us to go to him first."

"[He's a] great guy and he really does a great job helping Student Council -- and he really cares about what the students are doing."

David Gabriel
Sophomore

Isabelle Hammer
Junior

"I think he's a good guy. I really appreciate the passion he has for his work. You can tell that he enjoys his job. However, when speaking he should cut back on the crazy metaphors and repetition and just say exactly what he means. This would get his messages across to students."


William Beard
Senior

"Mr. Hutch is an all-around upstanding Shaker citizen and he does all he can to make Shaker THE place."

LIMELIGHT'S TOP 10 HOLIDAY HARMONY DOWNLOADS

1." Christmas is All Around Us" Billy Mack
2. "Jingle Bell Rock" Billy Idol
3. "Mr. Grinch" Jim Carrey
4. "One Little Christmas Tree" Stevie Wonder
5. "The Hanukkah Song" Adam Sandler
6. "Santa Claus Goes Straight to the Ghetto" James Brown
7. "Silent Night" Boyz II Men
8. "Frosty the Snowman" Patti Page
9. "Let it Snow" Jule Styne
10. "This Christmas" Chris Brown

Winter Wonderland
top 10

Compiled by Julia Celeste

YouTube lingo lacks luster without friends

ADRIA KINNEY

The back of your head is ridiculous.

To most, this statement would cause confusion and an urgent desire to quickly flee the observer of your cranial assets.

To my friends and me, the statement elicits a round of laughs followed by a rapid-fire recitation of other strange sentences.

Welcome to the wonderful (and addictive) world of YouTube lingo.

It started last year, when a friend began quoting lines from a YouTube "Mad TV" skit titled "Can I Have Your Number?" in which the plot is just as basic as it sounds: a guy in a movie theater tries to convince a girl to give him her phone number.

I had seen the video once before, but promptly forgot about it. It was mildly entertaining, but also pretty stupid, like most YouTube videos.

It wasn't until a friend of mine with a knack for mimicking people started using some of the more ludicrous lines from the skit in our everyday lives that I realized just how funny the video was. Every time she repeated the words "Can I have it? Can I?" during a class when a teacher was passing back tests, my friends exploded in laughter.

But our obsession didn't stop there. After our "Can I Have Your Number?" phase there was the "Bon Qui Qui" phase, followed by "Because I'm Black" and "Ka-Son at the Airport." Some of us even went as far as to download them onto our iPods. We couldn't (and still can't) get enough of these videos; nearly all of our conversations contain references to at least one skit.

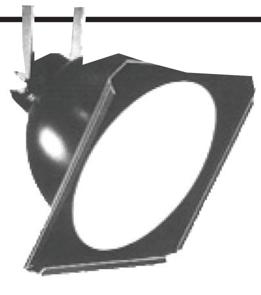
It's extremely hard to stop. Lately, every time someone thanks me, it takes serious self-restraint to prevent myself from replying, "Delicious, you are welcome." When someone I don't know asks for my name, I'm tempted to say, "Anonymous."

I've tried to understand why these videos are so amusing; when I watch them alone, they're not that funny. I concluded that it is not the content, but the context that makes these videos hilarious.

Whereas I expect humor from a "Mad TV" skit, I don't have the same expectation during AP Government. When someone starts talking about donut filling during class, I'm caught off guard and can't help but laugh.

Mostly, it's just one more thing that brings my friends and me closer, as cheesy as that sounds. When I laugh until my sides hurt about something that no one else understands, it makes me grateful for my quirky friends. Senior Anna McDonough and fellow YouTube enthusiast explained it perfectly: "It's only funny with your friends, when you say it together."

Thank you, Mr. Shoelace.



RECORD CAST NUMBERS

• 'Ragtime: The Musical' stages 125 student actors, musicians, designers and managers for the Dec. 5 show

BY SIMONE DUVAL
LIMELIGHT EDITOR

"I've already bumped into someone in rehearsal . . . whoops," stated junior Fatimah Mateen in an email-interview concerning the Shaker Theatre Art Department's fall show "Ragtime: The Musical."

Mateen, a junior and the stage manager for "Ragtime," has her hands full with an abnormally large number of actors, musicians, designers and managers involved in the musical. Numbering around 125 student members, the cast can sometimes get in the way of Mateen's stage rehearsals. "You do have to let the actors know, 'Look, I have to get this on and offstage in a certain amount of time, I'll be coming this way..and then you try to get people out of the way," she stated. She also added that since there is so much detail in the play, there are a lot more props and scenery pieces to deal with, along with the issue of making sure the pieces are displayed amidst the movement of many bodies onstage. The fall musical, in Mateen's opinion, involves a, "high number of student staff because 'Ragtime' is such a large, ambitious show, and so the actors and the directors need as much support and assistance possible from the student staff involved."

"Ragtime" is a musical based on the novel of E.L. Doctrow, and includes music compositions from Stephen Flaherty and lyrics by Lynn Aherns. The play's plot follows three different families--one of immigrants, one of African Americans and one of white upper-middle class citizens--whose lives intersect in unforeseen ways as a result of the changes that came with the turn of the 20th century.

With such a sizeable company, the theatre department aims to provide as many on-stage and off-stage opportunities as possible.

Christine McBurney, chairwoman of the theatre department, said she chose this musical for the fall production because of this number of roles that would need new faces to fill them. "In educational theatre, you look for shows that offer double the possibilities so that many students can participate," she said.

With 70 students cast in roles ranging from poor immigrants to upper-class WASPs (White Anglo-Saxon Protestants) the turnout for this year's musical production should be tremendous. Another factor is the newly renovated large auditorium, which has yet to be used for a full-scale production. "Every time you cast a student, that's potentially 2-5 tickets for a show, so it builds an audience as well as the community's support," McBurney said.

The opportunity for such an abnormally large cast, in contrast to previous sizes like the "Into the Woods" cast of 50 student, has had other effects. Senior Tempest Charles, cast as the female lead role of Sarah, an ardent admirer of a professional pianist, said that the considerable number of students trying out for the play had a positive effect on her performance. "Many new faces in the auditorium for auditions and new and fresh talent made those of us who were familiar with Shaker Theater step our game up."

Junior Ryan Thurman agrees. Cast in the male lead role of Coalhouse Walker Jr., Thurman stated in an email that, "working with a large cast is fun. It is. . .exciting to interact with different people and seeing different peoples' talents."

123
STUDENTS AUDITIONED FOR ACTING ROLES

70
STUDENTS CAST FOR ACTING ROLES

55
STUDENT MANAGERS

Photos by Simone Duval • The Shakerite

Bush makes it to big screen

BY JULIA CELESTE
LIMELIGHT EDITOR

5 minute critic

W. looked like it would be a comical movie about the blunders of the Bush administration, according to the previews. However, it was a somber insight into eight years of weak policy.

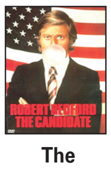
While the movie was an experience, the nature of the content made it difficult to decide if the film was excellent or disturbing because the conversations, intelligent or dense, were based entirely on Bush's life and personality. Clearly, Josh Brolin, who played Bush, researched our president and studied his habits and mannerisms.

The movie exposed Bush's life in Texas, his fraternity life at Yale University, and his early career opportunities that were a result of his father, the 41st president George H.W. Bush, pulling strings for him. It later depicted details of how Bush's nickname, "W," was adopted by his critics, meeting his wife, running for Texas governor and becoming president. One scene portrayed Bush consulting a clergyman, to whom he confessed that he only ran because God told him to.

As the film unfolded intricate details of Bush's presidency, it took a negative turn. Each scene was factual, including "Bushisms" that were direct quotes. When Brolin said, "They misunderestimated me," a direct quote from Bush, the movie became ridiculous, as it accurately displayed the ignorance of our president. Bush's record of saying so many ludicrous things was distressing to watch, not entertaining.

Get this

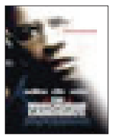
Like politics?
Get these movies!



The Candidate
1972

THIS MIGHT HURT A LITTLE
MICHAEL MOORE
SiCKO

Sicko
2007



The Manchurian Candidate
2004

RAIDER FALL SPORTS WRAP UP

BY PATRICK POHLMAN
RAIDER ZONE EDITOR

The Raider football team bounced back from last year's dismal 1-9 record to finish 5-5 and just out of the playoffs.

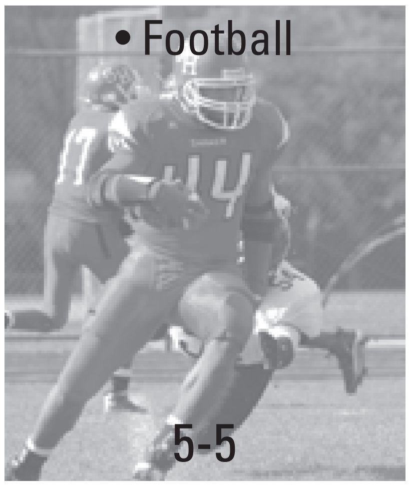
According to senior wide receiver Perez Ashford, things continue to look up for the team.

"I think we led a new era in Shaker Heights football by doing better than the previous years," Ashford said.

The Raiders scored hard-fought wins against rival University School, 31-28, and Bedford, 21-14. Shaker trounced Warrensville Heights by 26 and beat Collinwood 49-0.

The Raiders had more than 30 seniors on the team and were a hard-working group.

"The best thing our team did this year is that we competed in every single game. We had the desire to win on every play," Ashford said.



John Fletcher

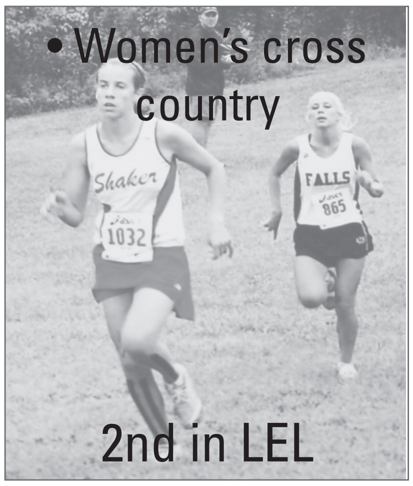
ROMAN LAWSON RUNS at the Heights defense.

BY JOSH CURRY
RAIDER ZONE EDITOR

Winning the Lake Erie League championship for the first time in Shaker history last year, the women's cross country team had a hard act to follow. However, the team did well, finishing second in the league after being edged out of a repeat victory by Mentor by only one point.

"We had our ups and our downs. The beginning of the season was a little hard . . . but we definitely grew as a team more than any other season," junior runner Whitney Livingston said.

Junior Katie Rownd pointed out that the season was marked by many high points, including their performance in the LEL district meet. "Earlier in the season we lost to Mentor by about 100 points, so to come back the next week and only lose by a point was a big accomplishment."



Gristmill photo

SOPHOMORE MOLLY SORDS at a invitational.

BY PATRICK POHLMAN
RAIDER ZONE EDITOR

The men's golf team, led by new coach John Schwartz, had a hard-hitting season that concluded with a 1-8 record and a fifth place ranking in the LEL.

"Schwartz knows a lot about the game and really helped us develop our physical and mental game," junior Tyler Wiest said.

Players chalked the season up to a rebuilding year after Shaker sent Julian Bruell ('08) to states last year, but the Raiders are approaching next year much differently; the team began conditioning and practices at the beginning of November.

"So by the time next year rolls around, we will be at a much higher level of play," Wiest said.

Senior James Phelan rebuilt his own game throughout the season; by the last tournament of the year, he improved his first tournament score by 51 strokes. He shot a career best 88 at Fowler's Mill during the district tournament

"The season went really well and was a lot of fun," Phelan said.

• Men's golf
1-8
Michael Cowett
Alec Coughlin

BY JOSH CURRY
MANAGING EDITOR

Doubling the number of wins from last year, the volleyball team ended their season with a record of 2-16.

Without a returning coach, the team's season got off to a rough start. "Nobody wanted to play without a coach . . . Everybody was indecisive and uncommitted to the team at the beginning," senior captain Erin Rucker said.

The new coach, Erin Pestak, took over and did a lot of positive things, according to Rucker. "She prepared us mentally, but we had a hard time delivering during games."

While the season was marked by many disappointments, including a loss to Mentor, some high points included a commanding 25-4 victory in a scrimmage against Cleveland Heights in the pre-season.

• Volleyball
2-16
Erin Rucker
Mikaela Pope

Unfortunately, next year does not look any better for volleyball. All but three varsity players are graduating, and it is likely that Pestak will not return.

BY PATRICK POHLMAN
RAIDER ZONE EDITOR

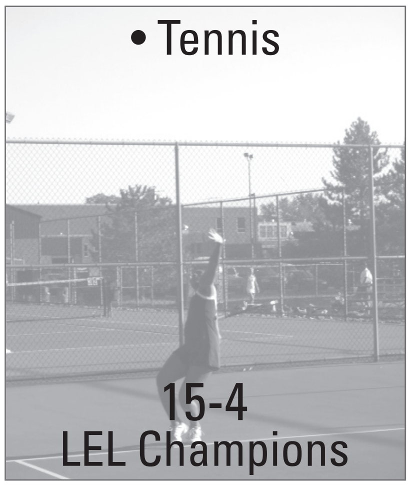
New coach Daniel Klein ('99) led women's tennis to a successful 15-4 mark, sending two players to states.

The Raiders repeated as LEL champions.

"Our new coach pushed us to do our best and did so by making us run miles after practice and having us do various other forms of conditioning," senior Donna Polk said.

Seniors Amanda Polster and Lauren Holloway qualified for state competition, and Polk and senior Abby Schiller won their flight in the Pickerington tournament.

A big disappointments for the Raiders came in a a narrow loss to Massillon Jackson in match play in the team tournament 3-1. The Raiders' loss eliminated their chances of making it to the state tournament.



Abby Schiller • The Shakerite

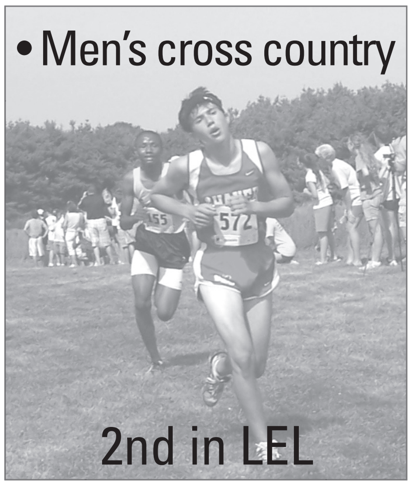
SENIOR LAUREN HOLLOWAY reaches to serve.

BY JOSH CURRY
RAIDER ZONE EDITOR

Despite inexperience and youth, the men's cross country team improved on last year's winless season.

Placing third in district competition, the squad qualified for the regional competition. "Districts was definitely the high point of our season," senior Gabe Weinstein said. Three individuals, seniors Weinstein, Michael Carl and Kevin Benton, qualified for regionals, placing in the top 20 runners at districts. Carl, who earlier in the season ran under 17 minutes to break his personal best, placed second in district competition out of more than 100 runners.

With most of the varsity team being first-year runners, Weinstein cited inexperience as the team's chief obstacle this season. Senior Jason Oscar agreed with Weinstein. "We're still finding our relatively young talent and building on last year," Oscar said.



Courtesy of Gabe Weinstein

FRESHMAN JONAH WEINSTEIN runs hard.

BY PATRICK POHLMAN
RAIDER ZONE EDITOR

After losing nine seniors, the field hockey team may have anticipated a quiet year, but they played boldly--all the way to the district final.

The Raiders lost 5-1 in the final to Hathaway Brown, who eventually won the state title against Columbus Academy. But Shaker accomplished significant goals throughout the season, including tying last year's state champs, Thomas Worthington, 4-4.

The Raiders also beat top-ranked Hudson 3-1 at Hudson for their senior game; junior Maddie Williams scored all three goals.

"I knew Hudson was going to be a good team and one of our biggest rivals, so we had to play our hardest to win and we did," said Williams, a two-year starting forward. She added that the girls were ecstatic after the game.

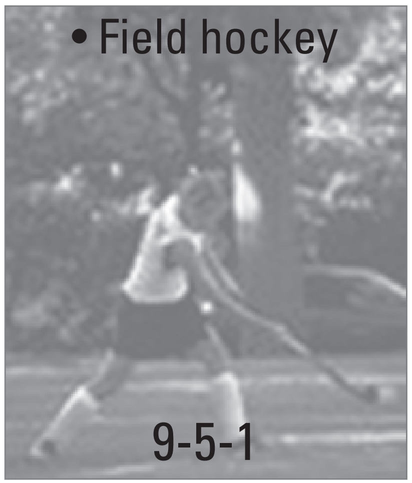


Photo cortesy of Marissa Miller

JUNIOR TAYLOR SMITH winds up for a shot.

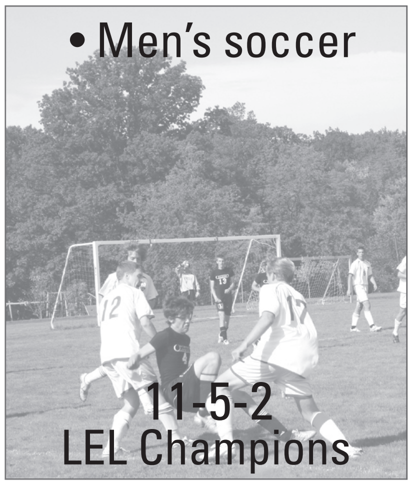
BY DIANA JACK
EDITOR IN CHIEF

For the first time since the 2002 season, the men's soccer team tied for the LEL title. Both team members and coach Nader Soliman attribute the overwhelming success to team camaraderie and teamwork.

"In the past there was one person who was a superstar who was controlling, but this year it was more of a team," junior goalkeeper Lance Neil said.

The biggest win for the Raiders was beating Avon Lake, and the team was ranked fourth in the top ten division I boys programs in Cleveland by the Greater Cleveland Coaches Association.

While the team will lose eight of 11 starting seniors, who will be hard to replace, Soliman believes that the boys have a lot of promise for next year. "Our goal is to surpass past records . . . Every player needs to challenge himself," Soliman said.



Simone Duval • The Shakerite

OWEN WILLIS AND Robin Steiner dominate.

Raider Zone
12.08.08

COWBOYS QB ROMO TREATS HOMELESS MAN TO THE MOVIES

In what must have been an effort to live up to a movie's title, Dallas Cowboys QB Tony Romo took a homeless man who goes by Doc to see the new Paul Rudd comedy "Role Models" Nov. 19.

According to the Dallas Morning News, Doc was exchanging coins for bills at a Dallas miltiplex when a man asked if he could buy him a ticket. At first Doc declined, then accepted when he recognized Romo.

The pair sat together for the film. When Doc mentioned he hadn't showered in a few days, Romo said, "Don't worry about that. I'm used to locker rooms."

Romo

Red Hot Billy Preppers salvage soccer season

Red Hot Billy Preppers, the name of the all-star team in the junior varsity indoor league at the Metroplex.

When the senior soccer fanatics learned there would be no indoor soccer team this winter session, they were upset. "I was disappointed, it being senior year, and I really like playing soccer. I wanted to keep playing," team member Patrick Sutorius said. Usually Robert Slonin coaches these winter sessions for the Shaker Youth Soccer Association (SYSA). "Slonin is a great guy that everyone loves to have coach us, he is more of a friend to players than he is a coach," Senior Adam Catlett said. Unfortunately Slonin's career moved him to Columbus and SYSA was unable to get enough field time to play.

PATRICK POHLMAN

I have been playing soccer since I was 4 and have always played year-round, and I was mad like the seniors about the lack of winter soccer. But some seniors took the initiative to go ahead and create their own exclusive team and play in the league without a coach.

Kevin Ekeberg phoned Slonin to figure out what needed to be done to get a team together for the league. "I was thrilled when Kevin called me asking what he needed to do . . . so I told him how," Slonin said.

First Ekeberg got his mom to call George Nanchoff, director of soccer operations at the Multiplex (otherwise known as The Word Church) to see what needed to be done.

I have attended a couple of RHBP games, and these 15 seniors are a fun bunch to watch. You might think that since they put the team together it is a squad of all-stars. However, there are members from the Shaker soccer team on the roster, and there are af few seniors who haven't played the game in a while.

"I heard about the team from friends, and thought it would be a lot of fun," Senior Gabe-Weinstein said. Surprisingly, students actually make the trip to cheer on the Red Hot Billy Preppers. "We draw crowds and put in work, it's that simple," goal scorer Erik Bokar said.

The lack of a coach doesn't provoke chaos when it comes to playing time. The team plays in three minute shifts so each player gets equal playing time.

Red Hot Billy Preppers played four games so far and have been victorious throughout. "We're probably the greatest and best-looking squad on the planet. We go hard," team member Bob Cirillo said. The team only has three remaining games this session, and I encourage you to go to them.

FINAL FOUR

Photo courtesy of John Fletcher

FORWARD MARY CLAIR tries to crossover a defender during the state semifinal against the Strongsville Mustangs in the Raiders' 2-1 heartbreaking overtime loss Nov. 5.

• Women's soccer surpasses expectations, captures regional title

BY JOAN THOMPSON
STAFF REPORTER

The women's soccer team's postseason run ended with an overtime 2-1 loss to Strongsville in their first state final four appearance Nov. 5.

The Raiders trailed by one goal with a minute remaining, but a throw-in by sophomore Danielle Swales and a header by junior co-captain Mary Clair allowed sophomore Ann Marie Kelly to tie the game in the final 14 seconds.

The team was amazed by the play. "I can't even put it into words. They had been working on that throw . . . and it finally worked in the most crucial moment of the entire season," junior left midfielder Maeve Willis said.

Despite a disappointing loss, the Raiders were content. "It was upsetting that the season was over, but we put up a good fight," Swales said. "I think we proved to everyone that we were a force to be reckoned with."

The team also captured its first district and regional championships. "We were just so excited when it started to happen, it was just ridiculous. I couldn't even believe it was happening until we played Strongsville," senior co-captain Norah Sweeney said.

The Raiders gained the support of a wide range of Shaker students. "We had so much of the school and community behind us," senior co-captain Kelly Sommers said, who observed the jam-packed bleachers at the Strongsville game held at Rocky River High School.

Shaker's state appearance comes a year after LEL rivals, the Mentor Cardinals, eliminated the Raiders in the district semifinals. Shaker also fell to Mentor 5-2 earlier in the season.

The team was eager to avenge that loss in the district tournament. "We really wanted to win really badly, and it showed. We scored six goals in 20 minutes," senior Ellie Seitz said about the Raiders' 6-0 win.

The Mentor win gave the team momentum throughout the tournament. "In the history of Shaker girls' soccer, we've never beaten Mentor. We've never even been in the lead against Mentor so to keep scoring and scoring and eventually win it 6-0; it carried us throughout the entire tournament," Willis said.

The team believes that hard work and dedication helped them reach the state semifinals. "I think we've always been a good team," Sweeney said. "All of a sudden it just clicked."

The Raiders also believe that their strong team bond helped them. "We were really united this year and bonded really well," Sommers said.

Additionally, head coach Tom Fowler believes that the team was focused and prepared. "I think they did a very good job of grasping our goals this year and understanding their roles," he said. "Really what happened with [them] was that they matured as a team."

There were five seniors on the 22-woman team, and it is evenly divided between juniors and sophomores. Four freshmen were part of the varsity reserve team.

Junior co-captain Kaley Shlaes is hopeful about next year. "I think we're going to be unstoppable."

ROAD TO THE FINAL FOUR

10/13	Sectional vs. Lakeside	9-0 Raiders
10/16	1st Round vs. Willoughby South	3-2 Raiders
10/20	District Semifinal vs. Mentor	6-0 Raiders
10/23	District Champs vs. NDCL	4-0 Raiders
10/29	Regional Semifinal vs. Howland	1-0 Raiders
11/01	Regional Final vs. Massillon Jackson	2-0 Raiders
11/05	State Semifinal vs. Strongsville	1-2 Strongsville

Compiled by Diana Jack